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INFORMATION

COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 24 Dec 1948

SUBJECT Proposed Farm Program of the Partido Comunista
de Colombia

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

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1. In the expectation that the state of siege will be lifted shortly after the end of the present session of Congress on 19 December 1949, the Central Executive Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCC) is making preparations for a nation-wide census of farmworkers. On completing the census, the Party hopes to organize a National Farm Congress to be held in Viota in May 1949. Victor J. Merchán, Marco Tulio Bolanos, and Jose Cardona Hoyos were appointed to visit the main agricultural centers of the country to discuss the proposed Congress and a tentative program with farm leaders.
2. The program drawn up calls for the following:
 - a. Land for poor farmers;
 - b. Long-term credit at low interest rates;
 - c. Credit guaranteed by the Government to buy tools and seeds at cost;
 - d. Construction and improvement of roads through farm areas;
 - e. Establishment of rural schools in farm areas.
3. The Committee was instructed to organize youth and women's committees and farm leagues to cooperate with labor unions in nearby towns in carrying out the program. Because of the traditional conservatism of the farm population, the new movement will be described as one of national liberation, avoiding any reference to Communist support. The Committee was advised, however, to investigate the political tendencies of the more influential farmers, and where advisable, to attempt to enlist them in the PCC.
4. The farm campaign will cost approximately 5,000 pesos, which will be collected from Party militants and sympathizers through the sale of "Farm Bonds" during December and January. Caution will be used in selling the bonds, since a large number have already been confiscated by the National Police.

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